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The Honorable Steven M. Palazzo of the Fourth District of Mississippi
Washington, D.C., June 25, 2020

Honoring PFC Robert Walker, U. S. Marine Corps

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of PFC Robert Walker who celebrates 100 years of life on June 25, 2020.

Mr. Walker hails from Spokane, Washington, and worked many jobs before a call to serve his country during its hour of need inspired him to join the Marine Corps. After completing basic training and being assigned to the 4th Marine Division, he was sent to the Pacific Theatre where he fought in the battle for Iwo Jima from February 19, until March 4, 1945.


On March 4, 1945, Mr. Walker was severely wounded by shrapnel and immediately evacuated to Hawaii to be given proper medical care. On September 28, 1945, Mr. Walker was discharged from the Marines and began his civilian life again. His wife of over 50 years, Betty, whom he met in San Francisco where he spent most of his life prior to the war, was waiting for him when he returned.

The Battle of Iwo Jima was one of the bloodiest and most ferociously fought battles of World War II. Mr. Walker was one of nearly 70,000 Marines who bravely battled entrenched Japanese forces

knowing full well that casualties would be high.

For his service, Mr. Walker was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with star, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. After his decorated service in the Marine Corps, Mr. Walker began working for the California Department of Motor Vehicles where he retired from a supervising position.

Mr. Walker has said that one of the happiest days of his life was when he was released from the Marine Corps, but he will also testify that his time in the Corps changed and defined his life. The phrase, "once a Marine, always a Marine" comes to mind when one thinks of the valiant heart and storied life of our friend, Robert Francis Walker.

A large, stylized blue ink signature of Steven M. Palazzo is written over a horizontal line.
Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress